

Mr. BOEHLERT. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER], the chairman, for that response.

Further, section 2(c) provides for the study of disaster-response training by FEMA. The purpose of this study is to inform the Congress on the adequacy of training for earthquake response. However, it is my understanding this section is not intended to change or otherwise affect the authority for, or implementation of, disaster preparedness training programs. NEHRP does not currently provide authority for such training, and there is no intention that this section is meant to provide such authority. Is that correct?

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, the gentleman is correct again.

Mr. BOEHLERT. I thank the chairman, and I urge my colleagues to support this well-crafted bipartisan bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 910.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 910, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE HIS ALL HOLINESS PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 134) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to allow Members of Congress to greet and receive His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 134

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on October 21, 1997, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for a ceremony to allow Members of Congress to greet and receive His All Holiness Patriarch

Bartholomew, the 270th Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] and the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY].

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution provides for the use of the rotunda on October 21, 1997, for a ceremony to allow Members of Congress to greet and receive His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, the 270th Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

At the request of the resolution's sponsor, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], the resolution has been amended to change the time of the ceremony from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] and concur with his resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 134. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony where Members of Congress may receive His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople and new Rome.

The Ecumenical Patriarch occupies the foremost position among the National Autocephalous Orthodox Churches worldwide and has the responsibility to coordinate the affairs of the Russian, Eastern Europe, Middle and Far Eastern churches. He is the spiritual leader of nearly 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, including approximately 5 million people in the United States.

It is important that Members of Congress, as leaders of a nation that was built on religious freedom and tolerance, have an opportunity to receive and honor one of the world's pre-eminent religious leaders. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew not only promotes peace and religious understanding throughout the world, but he is also profoundly committed to preserving and protecting the environment. In fact, he has sponsored a conference on the environment at the Theological School of Halki. Today, as the 270th

successor to Apostle Andrew, His All Holiness continues his efforts on behalf of religious freedom and human rights.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Speaker GINGRICH; the gentleman from California Mr. THOMAS, chairman of the Committee on House Oversight, the gentleman from Connecticut Mr. GEJDENSON, the ranking member, and the gentleman from Texas Mr. ARMEY, the majority leader, for their efforts toward bringing this resolution to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I also want to express certainly my appreciation to the members of the Hellenic Caucus for their support of this resolution as well as H.R. 2248, the recommendation to award the Patriarch with a Congressional Gold Medal.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support this most bipartisan legislation.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. CAPPS].

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. KILPATRICK] for yielding me the time.

I do want to thank the sponsors of this resolution, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON], the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS], the Hellenic Caucus and everyone involved. It is a very timely resolution, and I want to give all my support to it.

The Patriarch of Constantinople is one of the world's leading religious figures. He is a man of great intellect, a man of great compassion, and he represents a religious tradition of incomparable majesty. I think that is the only way to describe it.

The Orthodox tradition that he represents is a religious tradition of spiritual validity which combines aesthetic consonance with ancient wisdom. We will bestow the honor on him in allowing him to use the rotunda of the Capitol. But actually, we are the ones who are being honored by his presence here.

I am also very happy to say that he will visit my hometown, my city in the 22d District of California, Santa Barbara, this October for a conference on the environment. He knows spirituality. He knows environmental concerns. He has a very, very keen sense of the geopolitical dynamics of our world today.

So I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution, and I would like to congratulate the authors of the resolution on a very fine resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] for yielding me the time.